



July 28, 2008

Mr. Chad A. Stobbe
Land Quality Bureau
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-0034

Dear Mr. Stobbe:

I recently received your July, 17, 2008 memorandum where you plan to rescind IAC 567 Chapter 121, Land application of Wastes because "The land application of solid waste is considered disposal and not a beneficial use."

I would like to strongly disagree with your statement. For the past 8 years we have been land applying Hormel Foods' solid waste on agricultural land in Mitchell and Worth Counties. The landowners that receive the solid waste for free see many benefits to having the waste spread on their land.

In November, 2006, I asked Jim Andersen, Professional Agronomist, to estimate the nutrient value of the waste. He stated, "The average of the solid waste analyses from the Hormel plant were 3.1% N, and 1.2% P or 2.75% P₂O₅. Therefore, a normal application will provide 143 pounds of Nitrogen which has a value of \$42.78 per acre, and 55 pounds of phosphate with a current value of \$32.89 per acre. I do not have any content values for potassium and calcium (lime); therefore I cannot calculate any dollar values." **In 2006, Jim calculated the fertilizer value of the waste at over \$74 per acre and fertilizer prices have gone up substantially since then** (see attached email). We do not pay the farmers to receive this solid waste. Over the past 8 years, approximately 20 land owners in Iowa have benefited from Hormel's solid waste. They WANT the waste and see the benefits of it. If not, they would not let us spread it on their fields.

There are many people using the Chapter 121 regulations under the permit by rule provision (spread less than 2 tons per acre) without a permit. If the chapter is eliminated, then these individuals will need to get a permit under Chapter 64 or through the Department of Agriculture which are significantly different than Chapter 121.

OFFICES IN:

BOULDER, COLORADO
MADISON, WISCONSIN
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By recycling this waste, we are providing free fertilizer to area farmers and at the same time eliminating the need to enlarge or locate new landfills. We are also reducing our dependency for foreign oil by reducing need to purchase commercial fertilizers that are petroleum based.

The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has regulations for fertilizers that are sold to the public and charge inspection fees for that. Our waste is provided to farmers for free. They also have expensive storage requirements that would eliminate our recycling program if forced to build concrete storage pads with roofs for the storage of the waste. The large quantity generated and stored during the summer when crops are growing, as well as, the landowners desire to cover different fields each year makes building concrete storage areas extremely expensive and impractical to the point where the waste will be disposed of in the Lake Mills, Iowa landfill instead.

I have several ideas for alternatives to rescinding Chapter 121. To begin with, I realize maintaining regulations and staff to administer this regulation is expensive and time consuming. I would be more than willing to pay an annual fee to maintain staff to administer this regulation. Other state agencies around the country have done this and it has worked well. Secondly, place more of the burden for regulation onto the land application companies. Such as having land appliers self-approve new spreading sites, have us hire professional agronomists to prepare our annual reports and review our operations, etc. Thirdly, allow us to be regulated under Chapter 64 but continue to use Chapter 121 as the rules we follow.

To summarize, the solid waste from Hormel Foods does have a proven beneficial use as a fertilizer and liming material. There are alternatives to eliminating Chapter 121 that I would like you to consider. I would like to explain these ideas to you in further detail. Please call me at 800-758-5050.

Sincerely,



Ray DeLong
President

2364 08/04/08 PM 2:48

Ray DeLong

From: Jim-Jan Andersen [jlanders3@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2006 3:33 PM
o: Ray DeLong
Subject: Nutrient Value of Solid Waste from Hormel Plant

Hi Ray:

You requested an estimate of the dollar value of the nutrients and lime in an application (7 tons as is) of solid waste from the Hormel plant on a per acre basis.

I contacted Five Star Co-op at Lake Mills for the current fertilizer prices. Here are the values I calculated on a per unit basis: Nitrogen - 30 cents per pound actual; Phosphorus - 26 cents per unit of P₂O₅; Potassium - 21 cents per unit of K₂O; & Lime - 1.2 cents per unit of CCE (calcium carbonate equivalent). Most liming materials run about 65% CCE.

The average of the solid waste analyses from the Hormel Plant were 3.1% N, and 1.2% P or 2.75% P₂O₅. Therefore, a normal application will provide 143 pounds of N which has a value of \$42.78 per acre, and 55 pounds of phosphate with a current value of \$32.89 per acre.

I do not have any content values for potassium and calcium (lime), therefore I cannot calculate any dollar values.

I trust this gives you some idea of the value of the solid waste. Of course, we cannot comment on how quickly the nutrients are available.

This did not take much time to put together, so there is no charge.

I also wish you and your loved ones very joyous holidays and a great 2007.

Thanks for the work, Jim

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